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BOROUGH OF WREXHAM

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1941.

T.P. EDWARDS, M.D., B.S.(Lond.), D.P.H. (Cant.).
L.A. STROUD, D.P.A., M.R. San. Inst.

I herewith present my 19th Annual Report on the Health and Vital Statistics of the Borough of Wrexham for the year 1941.

I have been asked not to divulge the official figures for population in the interests of national security, but all that I need say is that there has been an increase in the population.

It will be seen in the Report that there has been a substantial increase in the number of cases of children immunised against Diphtheria, and it does appear at last, that the conscience of the parents has been aroused to the importance of this aspect of preventive medicine.

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GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres)..... 2,916
Rateable Value of the Borough (31st March, 1942).....£161,585
Sum presented by a penny rate..... £626. 12. 3d.
Corporation Houses..... 1,775

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total.
(Birth Rate). Live Births (legitimate).....	221	243	464
Live Births (illegitimate)....	14	14	28
Total ...	235	257	492
(Figures for calculating Infantile Mortality Rate).....	239	258	497

Birth Rate..... 16.8 England and Wales..... 14.2
Total No. of Stillbirths..... 21

DEATHS	M.	F.	Total.
	218	187	405

Death Rate..... 13.8 England and Wales.....12.9

Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth:-

1. From Sepsis..... 2
2. From Other Causes..... 1

Total 3

Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births:-

	Male	Female	Total.
Legitimate.....	17	18	35
Illegitimate.....	1	1	2
Total	18	19	37

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE

Legitimate.....	74.6
Illegitimate.....	71.4
Total	74.4. (England & Wales.. 59.0)

The above figures show that Infantile Mortality and the corresponding rate show a very substantial decrease over the very abnormal figures for 1940. This decrease was confined to the deaths of infants who were legitimate.

16 neo-natal deaths occurred during the year.

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CANCER DEATHS

There were 29 male and 32 female deaths during the year, making a total of 61 as against 44 for 1940.

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NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

During the year, the following cases were notified:-

Diseases	Total Cases Notified	Total Deaths
Small Pox.....	-	-
Scarlet Fever.....	38	-
Diphtheria.....	106	1
Pneumonia.....	57	24
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	12	2
Erysipelas.....	6	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever..	20 (3 non-civilian)	1
Encephalitis Lethargica.	-	-
Enteric Fever (Paratyphoid)	1	-
Measles.....	271	1
Whooping Cough.....	89	2
	600	31

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TUBERCULOSIS CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR, 1941.

NEW CASES				DEATHS			
Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
22	11	9	3	11	7	-	-
33		12		18		-	

DIPHTHERIA

The number of cases of Diphtheria notified during the year was 106 as compared with 111 for 1940. The number of deaths was 1 as compared with 5 in 1940. The case rate per 1,000 population is 3.7 as against 1.25 for England and Wales.

IMMUNISATION

During the year the following cases were dealt with:-

Schick Test ..... Nil

Dick Test ..... Nil.

Immunisations

	Age 0 - 5	Age 5 - 15	Age Over 15
No. completed during the year.	147	280	-
No. uncompleted at end of year.	28	67	3

In 1940, only 35 completed immunisations took place, and 13 uncompleted, but the figures for 1941 show a very substantial improvement in that 427 children under the age of 15 completed their immunisations and 98 were uncompleted at the end of the year. It does appear as if the conscience of the public was being aroused to the necessity of this simple method of prevention of one of the most dangerous diseases that one can think of , especially when it affects children under five and especially between five and fifteen.

What is most pleasing is the fact that a larger number of children under the age of five have been immunised , especially when it is remembered that these children are living in the most susceptible period of their lives in the event of an epidemic.

In view of the continued incidence of Diphtheria especially in a Council Housing Estate, proposals were submitted to the Welsh Board of Health urging legislation for the compulsory immunisation of all children throughout the country. This same question has been discussed by many other authorities throughout the country, but the reply of the Welsh Board of Health was to the effect that the situation did not warrant compulsory legislation. The Borough, however, was not satisfied with this reply and the

matter has been postponed to a future date. It is a peculiar fact that during the period when these proposals were discussed, the incidence of Diphtheria had fallen and that the cases were also of a very much milder type than had previously been the case.

SCARLET FEVER

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the year was 38 as compared with 61 in 1940. There were no deaths during the year. The case rate per 1,000 population was 1.3 as compared with 1.47 for England and Wales.

PNEUMONIA

The number of cases of Pneumonia notified during the year was 57 as compared with 130 in 1940. There were 24 deaths during the year as compared with 42 in 1940. The case rate per 1,000 population was 1.9 as compared with 1.25 for England and Wales.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

There were 2 cases notified during the year.

SMALLPOX

There were no cases of smallpox notified during the year.

VACCINATION - STATISTICS FOR THE WREXHAM AREA

Total Births	1,450
Successfully vaccinated	312
Insusceptible	6
No. had Smallpox	-
Conscientious Objectors	766
Died Unvaccinated	78
Postponed by medical certificate	59
Removed	146
Unaccounted for	133

ENTERIC FEVER

There was 1 case of Enteric Fever notified during the year.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

During the year there were 12 cases notified as compared with 5 in 1940. There were 2 deaths during the year, and 1 death from other maternal causes.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER

The epidemic of Cerebro-spinal Meningitis continued throughout the year, but it is satisfactory to note that there were far fewer cases. In all, 20 cases were admitted to the Fever Hospital from the Borough, and this included 3 non-civilians. Of the 20 cases, however, 5 were R.D.C. cases who had been previously admitted to the War Memorial Hospital. There was only one death during the year. Naturally, the cases which were admitted as Cerebro-spinal Meningitis and which were found not to be suffering from this infection have been excluded from the above figures. A large amount of pathological work was performed by Dr. Robinson of the Conway Public Health Laboratory, and one is grateful for his continued co-operation and assistance and it is through his investigations that we have been able to

exclude cases as not suffering from the disease, but from other forms of meningitis.

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FEVER HOSPITAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1941
BOROUGH CASES.

Remaining in Hospital, December, 1940

Scarlet Fever	4
Diphtheria	7
C.S.F.	1
Total	12

Admitted during the year 1941.

Scarlet Fever	28
Diphtheria	109
Obs. Diphtheria	1
Paratyphoid	1
C.S.F.	15
Obs. C.S.F.	9
Others	8
Total	171

Discharged during the year 1941

Scarlet Fever	30
Diphtheria	106
Obs. Diphtheria	1
Paratyphoid	1
C.S.F.	15
Obs. C. S. F.	9
Others	5
Total	167

Deaths in Hospital during 1941.

Diphtheria	1
C.S.F.	1
Others	2
Total	4

Remaining in Hospital, December 1941

Scarlet Fever	2
Diphtheria	8
C.S.F.	1
Obs. Ery.	1
Total	12

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

No. ofmothers with babies attending Centre.....	850
Total attendance of mothers with babies.....	8,415
Average sessional attendance (per baby).....	9.5
Average sessional attendance.....	84.15
No. of medical consultations.....	1,514
Ante-natal cases.....	185
Ante-natal attendances.....	787
Post-natal cases.....	14
Post-natal attendances.....	16

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ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT

The following table shows the number of children under the age of five, treated at the Orthopaedic Clinic during the year.

On books 1st. January, 1941.....	30
No. admitted during the year.....	22
Total treated.....	52
No. discharged.....	16
On active treatment, 31st December, 1941....	36
Total No. of attendances during the year.....	178

3 children, on attaining the age of five, were transferred to the group of cases under the School Medical Service.

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NUTRITION

During the year, the Health Department co-operated with the Ministry of Food in the distribution of Cod Liver Oil and Vitamin C preparations. This co-operation undoubtedly helped the officials of the Ministry of Food and at the same time was a means of advertising the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic amongst the inhabitants of the Borough.

During the year, a British Restaurant was opened in Rhosddu Schools, and arrangements are being made at the present time for the opening of other centres of a similar nature in other parts of the town. Good use has been made of the Restaurant by the workers in the town.

Reference has been made in my School Report to the number of children requiring free meals and free milk in Schools and it is of interest to note that in view of the increasing wages which have been received by Government employees, the number of children receiving gratuitous meals and milk has very substantially decreased.

Another important event, was the opening of a Food Advice Centre in a central part of the town. This has been an unqualified success, and has been the means of educating the public as to the best ways of preparing foodstuffs. One cannot emphasise too strongly the importance of this work, and no doubt it will play an increasingly important part in the economic life of the community

under conditions such as are at present existing.

War-Time Nursery

Towards the end of the year, our first War-time Nursery war opened. A great deal of discussion took place during the year as to the locality of the Nursery, and it was agreed to utilise a vacated condemned house in Pentrefelin, but it was found that the renovations required to make this building fit for this purpose were prohibitive, and this Scheme was not sanctioned by the Welsh Board of Health. After further investigations, Abbotsfield, a house in the centre of the Borough was requisitioned.

During the first few weeks, very little use was made of this nursery in spite of repeated consultations and interviews with members of the Ministry of Labour, and their Welfare Officers and also with the Welfare Officers of the R.O.F., but I am pleased to state that at the time of making this report, the value of this institution has been acknowledged and appreciated, and steps are now being taken not only to extend the present nursery, but to open another one in another part of the town.

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WATER SUPPLIES

During the year, one sample of water was taken from the mains and analysed at Conway Laboratory, and was found to be excellent. The reason that more samples were not taken, was the fact that other samples were being taken in the Rural area from the same source of supply, especially in reference to a local factory, and all of these samples were found to be satisfactory.

23 wells were also examined in respect to Emergency Water Supplies. These were situated in all parts of the Borough. Of these, 15 were satisfactory though in two or three cases the analyst emphasised the fact that all possibility of human pollution should be excluded. The other 8 samples were not satisfactory. A certain number of these wells have been ear-marked by the N.F.S.

One other sample was taken from the pool in the Parciau in reference to an allegation that a dog had been poisoned. Samples were sent to Mr. Lowe, of Chester, who reported the absence of any poisonous substance in this water.

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SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The only alteration in the sewage disposal of the Borough during the year 1941 was the agreement with the R.O.F. to take in their drainage material to our Sewage Works at Five Fords. This has necessitated certain extensions being effected such as two percolating filters and an extension to the humus tank.

Arrangements are now being made whereby the effluent is analysed monthly for a period, in view of a statement by our Consulting Engineers that the strength of the sewage has substantially altered since the works were first renovated by them. The sewage, in its crude state is a strong sewage, but all effluents so far examined, have been satisfactory.

SALVAGE

The collection of salvage is carried out by the Borough Surveyor's Department and certain difficulties have arisen in this respect.

During the year, consultations have taken place in reference to a scheme whereby salvage officers could be appointed in each street of the Borough to supervise the collection, but this scheme unfortunately has not been a success. Arrangements were made whereby salvage was collected on certain days of the week, but owing to the lack of suitable vehicles, this has also had to be dropped and the salvage is now being collected in conjunction with refuse removal.

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AMBULANCE FACILITIES

(a) INFECTIOUS CASES - Motor ambulance attached to the Wrexham Fever Hospital.

(b) NON-INFECTIOUS AND ACCIDENT CASES - Motor Ambulances attached to the St. John Ambulance Association - Wrexham Branch.

The following report has been received from the Honorary Secretary of the Local Branch of the St. John Ambulance Association.

Number of cases carried	1,850	Mileage	14,366
Number of road accidents	128	Mileage	673
Total cases	1,978	Mileage	15,039
Total number of cases where First Aid was rendered			293
Public functions attended			329
Attendances at functions number			1,104
Total hours of duty given voluntarily by men (excluding A.R.P. duties)			13,507

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year 1941.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE, BOROUGH OF WREXHAM

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Fifth Annual Report upon the work performed by your Sanitary Inspectors in connection with the Sanitary and Housing Administration and the supervision of food supplies within the Borough during the year 1941.

The year brought several changes in the inspectorial and clerical staff, but essential services have been maintained and I am indebted to the Health Committee for the prompt manner in which the various vacancies were filled. In particular we have been able to devote all the necessary time to Meat Inspection and the supervision of milk and food supplies generally.

I must express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and

Members of the Health Committee for the constant help and consideration I have received in the carrying out of my duties; to the Medical Officer of Health and the other officers of the Corporation for their kind interest, and to my staff for their willing co-operation.

I am,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

L. A. STROUD, D.P.A., M.R.S.I.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

GENERAL SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

GENERAL SUMMARY — Table No. 1.

	1941	1940
Total Inspections	15,860	14,315.
Number of complaints received	311	184
Preliminary Notices served	345	431
Statutory Notices served	150	58
Total number of letters received by the Department	796	575
Total number of letters despatched by the Department	899	720
Interviews with Builders, Owners and Agents	504	530

ROUTINE INSPECTION WORK PERFORMED BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS

Table No. 2.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK

Visits re:-

Accumulations	112	Keeping of Animals	112
Ashpits and Ashbins	451	Moveable Dwellings	72
Cesspools	914	Offensive Trades	59
Closets - Water	70	Public and Private Conveniences	7
- Privy or pail	177	Rag Flock Acts. Inspections	6
Common Lodging Houses	251	Samples	3
Complaints	417	Rats and Mice	290
Dirty Houses	37	Referred to other Depts	17
Drains - Existing	228	Schools	43
- Obstructed	57	Shops Acts	124
- Relaid	45	Verminous Premises	34
- Water Tested	44	Water Supply	104
- Smoke Tested	49	" Samples	40
Houses-let-in-lodgings	9	Miscellaneous Visits	1,076
Infectious Disease	170		

HOUSING

Houses Inspected	698	Overcrowding	67
" Re-inspected	1,840	Vacant Council Houses	28
House-to-house inspection	116	Miscellaneous	235

FACTORIES, ETC:-

Factories - Mechanical	118	Bakehouses - Non-Mechanical	103
- Non-Mechanical	8	Laundries	3
Domestic Factories	1	Outworkers	16
Bakehouses - Mechanical	68	Workplaces	45

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Municipal Abattoir (Day)	2,554	Food Preparation Premises	203
Municipal Abattoir (Evening)	378	Markets	135
Private Slaughterhouses	20	Dairies	233
Meat and Food Inspections:-		Cowsheds and Farms	195
Day	2,350	Street Vendors of Food	3
Evening	299	Ice Cream Premises	10
Shops:- Meat	83	Samples - Milk. (Bact.)	148
Fish	32	- Milk. (Biol.)	59
Fried Fish	50	- Food and Drugs	101
General Provisions.	155		
Other	49		

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

Table No. 5.

DWELLING HOUSES:-

Cleansed and Decorated	45	Rain-water gutters and down-spouts repaired	79
Roofs repaired	69	Down-spouts disconnected from drain	4
Walls "	67	Yard paving repaired or relaid	16
Floors repaired)	23	Yard drainage improved	10
Ceilings repaired)		Sufficient water supply provided	6
Chimney Stacks repaired or rebuilt	14	Food store provided	1
Firegrates repaired or renewed	33	Nuisances from animals abated	3
Washing Boilers " " "	13	Offensive accumulations removed	30
Doors and Windows" " "	75	Verminous premises disinfested by the Corporation.	13
Dampness remedied	49		
Lighting improved	4		
Ventilation improved	6		

DRAINAGE:-

Drains constructed or reconstructed	18	Drains repaired or cleansed	41
Hydraulic Tests to drains	42	" disconnected from sewer	1
Smoke " " "	36	" new inspection chambers.	8
Cesspools abolished	3	" ventilated	1
New sinks fixed	1	" under house abolished	3
Sink waste pipes - Trapped	17	" additional gullies	6
Soil and ventilating pipes renewed	2		

WATER CLOSETS:-

Cleansed and limewashed	17	Light and ventilation improved.	2
Repaired or reconstructed	24	Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	23
Pedestal wash-down W.C. basins fixed	20	Provided with a supply of water	16

ASHPITS:-

Abolished.....18 Portable dustbins provided..... 49

COMMON LODGING HOUSES:-

Cleansed and limewashed... 25 Contraventions remedied..... 1

DAIRIES:-

Cleansed and limewashed... 31

COWSHEDS:-

Cleansed and limewashed.. 38 Improvements..... 2

ICE CREAM MANUFACTURERS' PREMISES:-

Cleansed..... 10 Improvements..... 2

FRIED FISH SHOPS:-

Cleansed..... 12 Nuisances abated..... 3
Improvements..... 5

OFFENSIVE TRADES

Cleansed..... 3 Nuisances abated..... 1

PREMISES USED FOR PREPARATION OF FOOD:-

Cleansed..... 66

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES:-

Cleansed and limewashed. 26 Improvements..... 14
Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation..... 3 Sanitary Accommodation not separate for sexes..... 2
Overcrowding abated..... 1

SHOPS:-

Washing facilities provided 13 Facilities provided for taking meals..... 15
Lighting and heating improved.....15

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Rooms disinfected.....366 Library books destroyed or disinfected..... 60
Articles disinfected by steam.....286

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PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS

(a) COMMON LODGING HOUSES

At the commencement of the year there were four registered common lodging houses affording accommodation for seventy-one persons in twenty rooms, including one house used for accommodating married couples. One of these premises in respect of which the Corporation refused an application for renewal of registration owing to its dilapidated condition and unsuitability for accommodating lodgers was discontinued.

Applications were received for registration in respect of five premises found to be kept as common lodging houses and it was decided to grant the applications upon the execution of certain work of improvement. In one instance, the premises were discontinued. In three instances the keepers failed to carry out the specified works and legal proceedings were subsequently instituted against them but were withdrawn upon completion of the work in two cases. In the remaining case the necessary work was in progress at the end of the year. The premises were all kept under close supervision and 251 inspections were made for this purpose.

HOUSES-LET-IN-LODGINGS

Few premises within the Borough are used as houses-let-in-lodgings.

CELLAR DWELLINGS

There are no cellar dwellings in this Borough used for human habitation.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Seventy-two visits were made in respect of camping with caravans in various parts of the Borough. In some instances camping on unlicensed sites for periods in excess of the statutory limitation ceased on informal action being taken. Few complaints were received regarding moveable dwellings and it was not found necessary to institute legal proceedings.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are 8 trades legally defined as "Offensive Trades" carried on within the Borough in respect of which 59 inspections were made and four notices to cleanse and abate nuisances were served.

Briefly summarised, the trades are:-

(a) 1 gut scraper.
(b) 3 tripe boilers.
(c) 1 fellmonger, tanner and leather dresser.
(d) 3 rag and bone dealers.

One instance was observed in which the trade of rag and bone dealer was being carried on at premises within the Borough without the consent of the Corporation, but was discontinued as the result of informal action.

FISH FRYER

Originally classified as an "Offensive Trade" the business of fish frying is now controlled under the heading of "Preserved Food Manufacture" and by Bye-laws.

There are 20 premises on the register, but in several instances business was discontinued during the year. Fifty inspections were made and the premises were found to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES (PRIVATE).

There are three private slaughterhouses which have ceased to be used since the operation of the Government Meat and Livestock Scheme in January, 1940.

(h) SLAUGHTERHOUSES (MUNICIPAL ABATTOIR)

During 1941 the Abattoir has continued to be used as a slaughtering and meat distribution centre under the Government Meat and Livestock Scheme for a population of some 110,000 inhabitants of the district.

Details of animals slaughtered and inspected and imported meat distributed are given in Tables 4 and 5.

A new £4,000 extension comprising a meat distribution hall and offices was commenced in April, 1941 and during the year the Ministry of Food gave consent to a proposal for the erection of a new hide and skin store, fat room and condemned meat room which will be a considerable asset in the efficient working of the Abattoir.

MUNICIPAL ABATTOIR TRADING ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH, 1941.

This account shows a deficit of £573. 4. 1d.

The cost of additional equipment is included.

PLACES WHERE ANIMALS ARE KEPT

Fifty-three inspections were made in connection with the keeping of swine and other animals. Few complaints were received and 3 nuisances were abated.

HOUSE DRAINAGE AND SANITATION.

A total of 138 visits were made in supervising reconstruction work and improvements in connection with the drainage systems of existing buildings. The Department supervised the re-laying of drains at 18 premises in addition to many minor amendments of drainage systems of dwelling-houses and other buildings. Forthy-eight hydraulic tests and 38 smoke tests were made to drains, soil and ventilating pipes.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT

Atthe request of the Ministry of Home Security (Smoke Production Division) no action was taken in connection with smoke abatement during the year.

RAG FLOCK ACTS

Six inspections were made and three samples of rag flock procured from firms using rag flock in bedding and upholstery manufacture, were submitted for analysis, two samples being certified to comply with the standard of cleanliness prescribed in the Rag Flock Regulations, 1912.

The remaining sample was found upon analysis to contain an abnormal quantity of soluble chlorine, but it was subsequently found that this flock was not obtained from material which had been knitted, felted or woven, but was waste from cotton mills and therefore outside the scope of the Rag Flock Acts. This is an instance proving the need for a revision of the law relating to the cleanliness of stuffing materials used in upholstery and bedding.

RIVER POLLUTION

Inspections of the streams within the Borough are made from time to time. No nuisances were observed during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Investigations were made into the following notifiable diseases:-

Scarlet Fever	- 30	Diphtheria	- 95
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	- 15.	Other Infectious Diseases	- 13.

366 rooms were disinfected by fumigation and formalin spraying; 286 articles of bedding and clothing were disinfected by steam; 60 library and other books were disinfected or destroyed following cases of infectious disease.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS ETC.

Thirteen complaints were received and 42 inspections were made in connection with the infestation of dwelling-houses by bed-bugs and other vermin. Seven notices were served upon owners or occupiers of houses, and disinfestation work was carried out by the Department, at 1 Corporation owned house and 12 privately owned houses.

Inspection is made of all Council houses becoming vacant for the detection of verminous infestation.

SANITARY CONDITION OF PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT

No complaint was received regarding the sanitary condition of places of entertainment. Improvements were carried out at one premises upon the recommendation of the Department.

SHOPS ACTS 1912 to 1937

One hundred and twenty-four shops were inspected under Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934 relating to the provision of suitable means of ventilation, lighting, temperature, sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, and facilities for the taking of meals and a total of 43 improvements were effected.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION ETC. OF OFFICES

No complaints regarding offices were received during the year.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

The work of reconditioning working-class houses has continued during the year, particularly in cases of complaint. 698 inspections and 1,840 re-inspections were made, 333 houses were rendered fit in consequence of informal action, 22 Statutory Notices requiring the execution of repairs were served, and in 2 cases the work was executed by the Corporation in default of owners.

Property Owners now experience increasing difficulty in securing the prompt execution of repair work owing to a general shortage of labour and material.

OVERCROWDING

It would be difficult to accurately assess the position as to Overcrowding within the Borough, owing to the abnormal movement of population, having regard to the billeting of evacuees, work-people, and members of the Services. There is, however, reason to believe that, apart from certain cases dealt with by the Department, there is little excessive overcrowding.

REHOUSING OF HOMELESS FAMILIES

Six privately owned and 23 Corporation owned condemned houses were reconditioned as a temporary war-time measure to provide accommodation for persons rendered homeless by enemy action, and were all occupied at the end of the year. A further 16 houses are being similarly dealt with.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

MILK AND DAIRIES

The number of persons registered as wholesale purveyors and producers of milk is 35 and as retail purveyors, 93. There are 19 registered cowkeepers with approximately 350 cows, and 64 dairies and milk shops.

Twelve Dealers' Licences and one Supplementary Licence were issued under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF DESIGNATED AND NON-DESIGNATED MILK

During 1941 there were 151 samples of milk submitted by this Department for bacteriological examination as compared with 148 in 1940 including samples of milk produced or sold under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

Of these, 52 samples were of milk produced within the Borough and 40 samples were of Pasteurised Milk supplied to Elementary School children.

An analysis of the results shows that of the total samples taken 5.3% were reported to be unsatisfactory as compared with 6.0% in 1940; and as regards designated milks 6.3% were reported to be unsatisfactory as compared with 6.9% in 1940.

Summarized, the results were as follows:-

Samples Taken	Results
13 - Tuberculin Tested Milk.	12 complied-with and one did not comply-with prescribed conditions.
61 - Accredited Milk.	55 complied-with, and 6 did not comply-with prescribed conditions.
2 - Sterilised Milk.	2 were reported to be satisfactory.
53 - Pasteurised Milk	52 complied with and one did not comply with prescribed conditions.
20 - Non-Designated Milk.	20 were reported to be satisfactory.

Six samples of Pasteurised Milk were submitted to the Phosphatase Test and gave satisfactory results.

BIOLOGICAL TESTING OF MILK FOR THE PRESENCE OF TUBERCLE BACILLI

Forty-eight samples of designated and non-designated milks were submitted for biological testing, as compared with 44 in 1940. Four of the samples of 8.3% gave positive results and these cases were investigated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF ICE-CREAM

There are 30 premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 at which ice-cream is manufactured or sold, although in several instances manufacture has been temporarily discontinued. All the premises have been inspected and found to be satisfactory.

MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF PRESERVED FOOD

Under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, there are 24 premises now on the Register for use for the preparation or manufacture of sausages, or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food; 203 inspections of registered premises were made.

MEAT INSPECTIONS

It is with pleasure that I again record the inspection of 100% of the animals slaughtered at the Municipal Abattoir, and in addition, meat sent to the Abattoir from other slaughtering centres for distribution, and imported meat. The total number of animal carcases inspected during the year was 63,642 (excluding imported meat). Details are given in Tables 4, 5 and 6.

Table No. 4.

CARCASES INSPECTED

	CATTLE (including cows)	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP & LAMBS.	PIGS
No. slaughtered.....	1,634	2,163	4,601	44,623	10,472
No. inspected.....	1,700	2,163	4,601	44,623	10,472
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcases condemned..	3	43	19	195	27
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.....	327	483	17	4,517	475
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis.....	19.41%	24.32%	0.78%	10.54%	4.77%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcases condemned..	20	99	8	-	39
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned..	237	779	24	-	1,179
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.....	15.12%	40.59%	0.69%	-	11.63%

Table No. 5.

IMPORTED MEAT DISTRIBUTED FROM THE ABATTOIR

CARCASES OF MUTTON	QUARTERS OF BEEF	CARCASES OF PORK	OTHER MEAT AND OFFAL
30,403	3,639	843	455,247 lbs.

UNSOUND FOOD

The total weight of Meat and other Foods deemed to be unfit for human consumption amounted to 85 tons 9 cwts. 3 qrs. 15 lbs.

It was not found necessary to make any formal seizures of unsound food.

Table No. 6.

TOTAL WEIGHTS OF CONDEMNED MEAT

	TUBERCULOSIS			OTHER DISEASES		
	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Carcases or parts of carcases.....	658	2	8	273	-	15
Organs.....	372	3	1	255	-	16
TOTAL	1,031	1	9	528	1	3

Table No. 7

CANNED AND OTHER FOODS ETC. CONDEMNED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

(lbs)

FISH	BACON	CEREALS	EGGS	VEGETABLES	CHEESE	CANNED FOODS	MISC.
1,006	650.	366.	458	1,673	217	1,087	175

TOTAL WEIGHT:- 5,632 lbs.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

At 31st December, 1941, 33 slaughtering licences issued by the Corporation were in force. The provisions of the Act have been well observed.

RETAIL MARKETS

One hundred and thirty-five inspections were made to Food Stalls at which meat and other articles of food for human consumption are sold in the Butchers', General, and Vegetable retail markets, and conditions were found to be generally satisfactory.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938 - ADULTERATION

A total of 81 samples of foods and drugs were submitted by the Corporation for chemical analysis during the year, this being equivalent to 2.8 samples per 1,000 of the population. Of these samples 61 were certified to be genuine and free from prohibited preservatives, colouring matter and excessive amounts of extraneous dirt. Fifteen samples of milk showed deficiencies in solids-not-fat, but the Hortvet freezing-point test showed no evidence of added water.

The articles sampled were as follows:-

Milk	- 49	Ground Ginger	- 1	Cocoa	- 2
Butter	- 3	Coffee	- 2	Mustard	- 1
Margarine	- 3	Flour	- 1	Evaporated Milk	- 2
Tea	- 1	Lard	- 2	Ice Cream	- 1
White Pepper	- 1	Sausage	- 4	Drugs	- 5
Baking Powder	- 2	Custard Powder	- 1		

In addition to the above samples, 48 samples of milk taken for other tests were also informally examined for fat and non-fatty solids content.

The quality of milk sold in the town from a chemical point of view continued to be good, the average composition of the milk samples being Fat 3.77% and Solids-not-fat 8.59%.

Legal proceedings were instituted against the vendor of a sample of milk taken in the course of delivery to a retailer in the Borough, which upon analysis was found to be 38% deficient of fat. A conviction was secured and a fine of £5 and £1. 14. 0d costs was imposed.

The vendors of 3 samples of milk slightly deficient in fat and of 1 containing sediment were warned and further samples proved satisfactory.

I am indebted to Mr. B. Wynne Griffiths, Inspector of Weights and Measures for information of the operation of the Act within the Borough by the Denbighshire County Council which shows that there were 55 samples taken during 1941 this being equivalent to 1.9 per 1,000 of the population. They were as follows:-

Milk - 35 Foods - 19 Drugs - 1

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

346 inspections were made of factories and workplaces including bakehouses. 60 informal notices were served to remedy unsatisfactory conditions.

Conditions were found to be generally satisfactory.

TABLE No. 8

PREMISES WITHIN THE BOROUGH WHICH COME UNDER THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937, NUMBER 201.

CLASSIFIED AS FOLLOWS:-

Bakehouses	34
Tailors and Costumiers	8
Boot and Shoe Repairers	23
Upholsterers, Cabinet Makers, etc	10
Garages, Motor & Cycle Repairers	26
Watchmakers	2
Builders and Plumbers etc	15

Electricians	2
Laundries	4
Smiths and Metal Workers	11
Dressmakers & Milliners	10
Concrete Workers and Masons	2
Photographers	4
Kitchens and Restaurants etc	21
Printing	6
Miscellaneous	23

INCREASE OF RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST RESTRICTIONS ACTS

No applications were received for Certificates under these Acts.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919

Forty-eight notifications of Rat and Mice Infestation were received by the Department during the year. A total of 290 visits were made in respect of Rat infestation, in addition to the work of the outdoor assistant. In no instance was it found necessary to serve a Statutory Notice under the Act.

WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE CORPORATION IN DEFAULT OF PROPERTY OWNERS

45 Saxon Street	-	House repairs	£49. 0. 0d.
25 Bersham Road	-	Ditto	£6. 5. 6d.
1 Mawddwy Avenue	-	Dustbin	- 16. 6d.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

1.	Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Section 3.	Milk 38% deficient of fat - Defendant convicted and fined £5. and £1. 14. 0d. costs.
2.	Milk & Dairies Order, 1926.	Filling milk bottles on unregistered premises. Defendant was convicted and fined £2.

CIVIL DEFENCE - FOOD DECONTAMINATION AND TREATMENT.

Your Chief Sanitary Inspector has been appointed Gas Contamination Officer for the Borough of Wrexham and members of the various food trades have been recruited and a Squad formed to deal with food which may become contaminated by War Gas etc.

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